

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

Since the deregulatory Telecommunications Act of 1996, cable rates have already risen at three times the rate of inflation. Removing the cable ownership cap will allow further conglomeration of cable media, which could in turn lead to even higher premiums.

A media industry that only presents the views of a select few large companies, coupled with the potential for higher cable rates, is clearly not in the public interest. Thank you for your time.